THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to media reports, Pakistan has been providing USA with base facilities at a number of places, particularly along the Makran Coast, Peshawar and Karachi.

(c) afid (d) Both the USA and Pakistan have denied the existence of any such bases in Pakistan. Government are, however, maintaining a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

**Troops Movement in Pak -occupied Kashmir**

580. SHRT MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be plesaed to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn *to* the news item which apenared in the Hindus tan Times dated 16th October, 1987 to the effect that the pattern of troops movement in Pak-occupied Kashmir, too close to the onset of winter, has created apprehensions in responsible quarters that Pak may embrak on yet another adventurous action in snow bound heights during the course of this month-

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIED INTHE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Gov. ernment have seen the media report but have no confirmed information to suggest any unusual movement on concentration of troops in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(c) Government keep a close wa*ch on all developments having a bearing on our security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

**Irrigable capacity of the Brahmaputra**

581. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area of land, in hec tares being covered by the Brahma putra in Assam;

(b) what measures Governmen' propose to take to utilise these area for cultivation; and

(c) whether there is any alternat! proposal other than the propos< dams to tame the Brahmaputra a
to prevent thereby floods and erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF *T'* MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURC (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA). (a) About 56 lakh ha.

(b) Against the gross cropped area of 32. 88 lakh ha., the ultimate irriga-gation potential in the basin has been assessed to be about 27 lakh ha. The irrigation potential achieved till the end of VIth Plan is 3. 58 lakh ha while the target set for Vllth Plan 4. 09 lakh ha.

(c) Besides storage reservoirs, 'h' include watershed manag-ment river training works; and the short term measures include embankment anti-erosion works and draina' schemes.

**Electoral reforms**

582. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY; Will the Minister of LAV/ AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the electoral reforms proposed by Government of India; and

(b) whether proposed reforms include meeting of the election expenses of candidates to the Assemblies and Parliament by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDA-WAJ): (a) and (b) The, Election Commission has formulated various proposals for electoral reforms which are under consideration of the Government. A statement o[1] such proposals was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No, 181 for 17th November, 1986 and Unstarred Question No. 91 for 27th July. 1987. These; proposals also to 'ude the proposal for financing of ill legitimate election expenses by he State.

**Electoral reforms**

583. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demand from various sections of the Society that the Centre may initiate immediate Legislative action on electoral reforms to cleanse the politics of the pernicious influence of mon$_e$y power; and

(b) whether Government propose to make poll reforms in the country on these lines and if not, the reasons thereof7

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. There have ; >en demands for curbing the role >f money power in elections.

(b) The Election- Commission has also proposed as part of its proposal for. electoral reforms that to deal with the problem of money power, it is necessary to evolve a scheme under which the burden of all legi-timate election expenses could be shifted to States. The Commission has observed that the whole subject merits an in-depth study. This proposal alongwith other proposals for electoral reforms are intended to bg discussed with political parties before arriving at a final decision. These discussbns have not taken place.

**Surrender of Hyderabad House New Delhi**

584. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW DHURY; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whethgr any decision has since been taken by Government to surrender Hyderabad House, New Delhi to the Andhra Pradesh State Government; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay and by when Hyderabad House is likely to be surrendered to Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): No, Sir.

(b) Hyderabad House is utilised and required for purposes of Government hospitality and Government accordingly plan to acquire the property from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

**Mid tern Appraisal of Seventh Plam**

585. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be plea sed to state;

(a) whether Government have undertaken the task for mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, whether the process has since been completed- and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan is underway.

(c) The mid-term appraisal is likely to be completed this year.